GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3880
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
SMUGGLING OF SHAHTOOSH
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation has recently unearthed the incidents of smuggling of shahtoosh shawls ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of persons arrested and further action that the Government proposes to take in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) two cases have been registered in New Delhi during November, 2005. 21 Shahtoosh Shawls were seized. During the course of investigation of these two cases, five persons have been arrested by Central Bureau of Investigation.

(c)Details of persons arrested are as follows:

1.Case No. RC 9/2005-EOU.V dated 17.11.2005

(i) Hazi Ghulam Nabi Naqash

2.CaseNo.RC 10/2005-EOU.V dated 22.11.2005 .

(i) Mohd. Yaseen Wani

(ii) Mohd. Imtiaz Wani

(iii) AsifHussain

(iv) Gowhar Amir Beigh

Chiru or Tibetan Antelope, from which shahtoosh is derived, is listed in Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 hence according highest degree of protection to the species. The relevant Jammu & Kashmir Act has also been amended and Chiru has been placed in Schedule-I, banning the trade of shahtoosh within Jammu & Kashmir also. Steps are being taken by the Government of India and the State Governments to check all illegal production and sale of Shahtoosh Shawls under the provisions of the Act. India is also a signatory to the Convention on Internationa] Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which also prohibits trade in shahtoosh. An expert group has been set up in the Ministry of Textiles to look into the issues relating to Shahtoosh.